What is claimed is:

1. An activity-level indicator comprising:

a controller operable to receive an activity level of a port from a processor associated with the port and to generate a signal that is related to the activity level; and

an indicator device coupled to the controller and operable to indicate the activity level in response to the signal.

2. The activity-level indicator of claim 1, wherein there is a finite number of activity levels.

3. The activity-level indicator of claim 1, wherein the indicator device indicates activity by flashes.

4. The activity-level indicator of claim 1, wherein the indicator device is a light emitting diode.

5. An activity-level indicator comprising:

a controller operable to receive an activity level of a port from a processor associated with the port and to generate a signal that is related to the activity level, the signal comprising a series of separated pulses, the separation between pulses being a non-linear function of the activity level; and

an indicator device coupled to the controller and operable to indicate the activity level in response to the signal.

6. The activity-level indicator of claim 5, wherein there is a finite number of activity levels.

7. The activity-level indicator of claim 5, wherein the indicator device indicates activity by flashes.

8. The activity-level indicator of claim 5, wherein the indicator device is a light emitting diode.

9. An activity-level indicator comprising:

a controller operable to receive an activity level of a port from a processor associated with the port, and to generate a signal that is related to the activity level, the signal comprising a series of separated pulses, the length of a separation being randomized within a predetermined range for that activity level; and

an indicator device coupled to the controller and operable to indicate the activity level in response to the signal.

10. The activity-level indicator of claim 9, wherein the controller is further operable to generate a randomized number, and the separation is a function of the activity level and the randomized number generated for that separation.

11. The activity-level indicator of claim 9, wherein there is a finite number of activity levels.

12. The activity-level indicator of claim 9, wherein the indicator device indicates activity by flashes.

13. The activity-level indicator of claim 9, wherein the indicator device is a light emitting diode.

14. A system for indicating the activity level of a port, comprising:

a processor operable to receive port activity information and determine a port activity level;

a controller operable to receive the port activity level, and to generate a signal that is related to the activity level; and

an indicator device coupled to the controller and operable to indicate the activity level in response to the signal.

15. A system for indicating the activity level of a port, comprising:

a processor operable to receive port activity information, and determine a port activity level;

a controller operable to receive the port activity level and to generate a signal that is related to the activity level, the signal comprising a series of separated pulses, the separation between pulses being a non-linear function of the activity level; and

an indicator device coupled to the controller and operable to indicate the activity level in response to the signal.

16. A system for indicating the activity level of a port to a user, comprising:

a processor operable to receive port activity information, and determine a port activity level;

a controller operable to receive an activity level of a port, to generate a randomized number, and to generate a signal that is related to the activity level, the signal comprising a series of separated pulses, the length of a separation being randomized within a predetermined range for that activity level; and

an indicator device coupled to the controller and operable to indicate the activity level in response to the signal.

17. A method of representing the activity level of a port, comprising the steps of:

receiving port activity information with a processor;

determining a port activity level with a processor;

generating a signal related to the port activity level with a controller that is separate from the processor; and

indicating the activity level with an indicator device coupled to the controller and driven by the signal.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the same processor receives the port activity information and determines the port activity level.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising determining the port activity level as a non-linear function of the port activity.

20. A method of representing the activity level of a port, comprising the steps of:

receiving port activity information with a processor;

determining a port activity level with a processor;

generating a signal related to the port activity level with a controller that is separate from the processor, the signal comprising a series of separated pulses, the separation between pulses being a non-linear function of the activity level; and

indicating the activity level with an indicator device coupled to the controller and driven by the signal.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the same processor receives the port activity information and determines the port activity level.

22. A method of representing the activity level of a port, comprising the steps of:

receiving port activity information with a processor;

determining a port activity level with a processor;

generating a signal related to the port activity level with a controller that is separate from the processor, the signal comprising a series of separated pulses, the length of a separation being randomized within a predetermined range for that activity level; and

indicating the activity level with an indicator device coupled to the controller and driven by the signal.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the same processor receives the port activity information and determines the port activity level.

24. An activity-level indicator comprising:

means for receiving an activity level of a port from a processor associated with the port and generating a signal that is related to the activity level; and

means for indicating the activity level in response to the signal.